



International Programs

The International Military Student Support Office (IMSO) at Marine Corps University coordinates support for all international students at Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico. Each year, approximately 75 international students from 50 allied nations are supported.

The International Military Students arrive at the University up to one month prior to the start of the regular courses. This early arrival includes an orientation to the Quantico area, tours the University, an introduction to personal computers/e-mail systems, and an orientation to the use of Marine Corps Base Quantico's base services. Additional classes provide the student a foundation in U.S. history, politics, government, and human rights.

Volunteers from among the U. S. classmates sponsor the international students while they attend the University. These military sponsors provide assistance to the student and their families as they arrive into the Quantico area and then throughout the academic year. Sponsors are often true "lifesavers" as they help their international classmates adapt to U.S. life, culture, and the academic rigor of the University. Additionally, local Rotary Clubs volunteer to sponsor international students throughout the academic year to provide them a civilian perspective on life in the U.S.

Organized social activities for the international students generally break down into one of six categories: official college or base functions, informal class parties, conference group parties, Informational Program activities, civilian sponsor activities, and IMS informal parties. Official College and Base functions include the Autumn Reception, hosted by the MCU President, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in early November, the Farewell Reception, which is also hosted by the MCU President, Mess Nights, and, in the spring, Graduation. Parties include the initial class picnics, the MCU Splashdown Party, a Halloween Party, a Christmas Party, assorted Sports Days, and a Graduation Picnic. Informational Program activities include visits to national parks and local area monuments, luncheons with guest speakers and faculty, an evening at the Kennedy Center, the Prince William County Holiday Party, trips to the Pentagon, Capitol Hill, Supreme Court, and trips to various state and local governments. Civilian Sponsor Activities include the Belmont Reception and the Spring Family Picnic. Additionally, a non-profit International Officers' Wives' Club has been in existence at Quantico since 1969 to promote interactions and support amongst the international students' spouses.

Nations wishing to send students to Marine Corps University should make application, through their office of defense cooperation, to the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Defense. Invitations are issued each year to fill the limited seats available on a case-by-case basis.

International Military Students Office
Telephone (703) 784-3156 or 3157